REMARKS

Upon receipt of the Advisory Action mailed June 13, 2001, Applicant telephoned the Examiner to discuss the issues raised in the Advisory Action. The Examiner recommended that Applicant file the enclosed supplemental Amendment.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Official Action dated February 27, 2001 and this Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to the Action.

The Examiner objected to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 17, 2000 was objected to for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3) because that IDS failed to specifically include a concise statement of the relevance of non-English reference DE 2323784. Applicant hereby states that nothing in DE 2323784 teaches or suggests to one skilled in the art that two actuators may be rigidly connected together to each other by a substantially rigid connection. Each of the actuators 20 as shown in DE 2323784 is separately guided in a guide rail. No structure is disclosed for the purpose of coupling the actuators 20. Since each of the actuators 20 is separately and independently guided in respective guide rails, this prior art document is redundant in disclosure to documents already of record.

The drawings were objected to because Figure 3 includes the same reference numerals to denote different components. Applicant has submitted an amendment to the specification intended to overcome this objection. No new matter has been entered.

The original specification was objected to for failing to include a proper Abstract as required by 37 C.F.R §1.72(b). Applicant has enclosed an Abstract as required by the Examiner. No new matter been entered

The Title of the invention has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefinite claim language. The claims have been reviewed and amended to comply with the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent Publication No. 796 54 851. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German '851 in view of Kimura et al. '443. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German '851. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

The Examiner indicated that the claims, as argued, do not positively recite the non-movable rigid coupling of the invention. Applicant has amended the claim to distinguish this invention over the prior art. The presently claimed invention specifically recites that the two actuators are non-movably and non-pivotally fixed and rigidly connected to each other by a rigid connection in the operating condition. That arrangement is not found in the prior art, because US Patent 6,050,029 teaches an arrangement where an articulated connection between the followers 20 to the window pane 7 by profile rail 8.

In view of the above amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define the invention over the prior art of record and notice to that affect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

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IN THE TITLE

Please change the Title as follows:

"MOTOR-VEHICLE WINDOW LIFT" to

--MOTOR VEHICLE WINDOW LIFT WITH RIGIDLY COUPLED ACTUATORS IN THE LIFT-OPERATING POSITION--.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please add the following Abstract to this application:

A motor-vehicle window lift comprises a mounting structure, a drive means, a cable system having two cable segments running substantially parallel to each other, reversing rollers for the cable system and two window-pane actuators each affixed to one of the cable segments, and actuators displaceably guided inside a guide at the mounting structures, wherein the actuators are rigidly connected to each other by a rigid coupling such that the actuators are non-movably fixed to the rigid coupling in a lift operating condition.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification at page 7, lines 6-7 as follows.

[Figs, 1, 2, 3 are side views of three different embodiments of the window lift of the invention.]

Fig. 1 shows a first embodiment of the window lift of the invention.

Fig. 2 shows the cable drive means 4 being configured more centrally, slightly laterally offset, relative to the guide 6.

Fig. 3 shows the mounting structure 2 consisting of several parts and illustratively includes a support sheetmetal 15 for the drive means 4, for the braces 17 supporting the reversing rollers 10 and further support sheetmetals for instance to affix one or possibly two guides 6, 7.

Please amend the specification at page 8, line 20 through page 9, line 5 as follows.

As regards the embodiment of Fig. 3, the mounting structure 2 consists of several parts and illustratively includes a [support] sheetmetal supports [15] 15'' for the drive means [4] 4'', for the braces [17] 17'' supporting the reversing rollers 10 and further support sheetmetals for instance to affix one or possibly two guides [6, 7] 6'', 7''. Otherwise the design is similar to that of the other embodiments. The embodiment shown in Fig. 3 also makes it easily possible to guide only one of the two actuators [12, 13] 12'', 13'' in a guide [6, 7] 6'', 7'' and to affix the other actuator in unguided manner to the corresponding cable segment [3, 5] 3'', 5''. The elimination of a guide [6, 7 of its own] 6'', 7'' for one of the two actuators [12, 13] 12'', 13'', or slide elements, however does not entail a significant reduction of the stability, i.e. guidance properties of the window lift of the invention because the two actuators [12, 13] 12'', 13'', or slide elements, are connected to each other by the rigid coupling 11, i.e. the crossbar 14.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 as follows.

1. (2X Amended) A motor-vehicle window lift for lifting a window pane from a lower position to an upper position comprising a mounting structure (2), a drive means (4), a cable system (8) having two cable segments (3, 5) running substantially parallel to each other when said window pane is lifted from said lower position to said upper position, several reversing rollers (10) for the cable system (8) and two actuators (12, 13) for the window pane, each affixed to a respective one of the cable segments (3, 5), [at least one actuator] two actuators (12, 13) being displaceably guided in a first guide (6, 7) on the mounting structure (2), wherein

the two actuators (12, 13) are rigidly connected to each other by a [substantially] rigid coupling (11) such that the actuators are non-movably and non-pivotally fixed to the rigid coupling in a lift operating condition.

4. (2X Amended) A window lift as claimed in [one of the above claims,] claim 1, wherein the width of at least one of the mounting structure (2) and the separation between the cable segments (3, 5) is less than approximately 2/3 the width of the window pane.

5. (2X Amended) A motor-vehicle window lift for lifting a window pane from a lower position to an upper position comprising a mounting structure (2), a drive [means] member (4), a cable system (8) having two cable segments (3, 5) running substantially parallel to each other when said window pane is lifted from said lower position to said upper position, several reversing rollers (10) for the cable system (8) and two actuators (12, 13) for the window pane, each affixed to a respective one of the cable segments (3, 5), at least one actuator (12, 13) being displaceably guided in [a guide] at least one of first and second guides (6, 7) on the mounting structure (2), wherein the two actuators (12, 13) are connected to each other by a [substantially] rigid coupling (11) such that the actuators are non-movably and non-pivotally fixed to the rigid coupling in a lift operating condition, and wherein

a second actuator is affixed to one of the cable segments (3, 5) remote from the [guide] first and second guides (6, 7) such that said second actuator is not guided by said [guide] guides (6, 7).

6. (2X Amended) A window lift as claimed in [one of claims 1 through 4, characterized in that] claim 5, wherein [a second guide is provided and] the two actuators (12, 13) each are displaceably guided in said first and second guides (6, 7), respectively, [at] on the mounting structure (2).

8. (2X Amended) A window lift as claimed in [one of the above claims 1 through 6, characterized in that] claim 5, wherein the [at least one guide (6, 7) is] the first and second guides are screwed, riveted or welded into the mounting structure (2).

10. (2X Amended) A window lift as claimed in [one of the above claims, characterized in that four] claim 5, wherein said reversing rollers (10) are used at end zones of the mounting structure (2) and in that the cable system (8) is a single-cable system running over all reversing rollers (10).

12. (2X Amended) A window lift as claimed [in one of the above claims, characterized in that] claim 5, wherein the actuators (12, 13) are integrally joined to each other by a crossbar (14) defining said rigid coupling.